

# THE CIVILIAN

A FORTNIGHTLY JOURNAL

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS

OF THE

CIVIL SERVICE OF CANADA

## FEATURES.

Is It Millenium?

The Dapper Slacker's Prayer.

The Roll of Honour.

The Melting Pot.

Women's Page.

Public Opinion and the New Era.

Dominion Railway Mail Clerks' Federation (Annual Meeting).

From Forestry Men at the Front.  
(Concluded).

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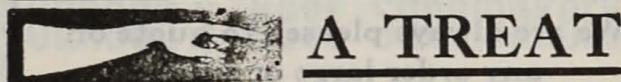
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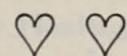
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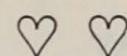
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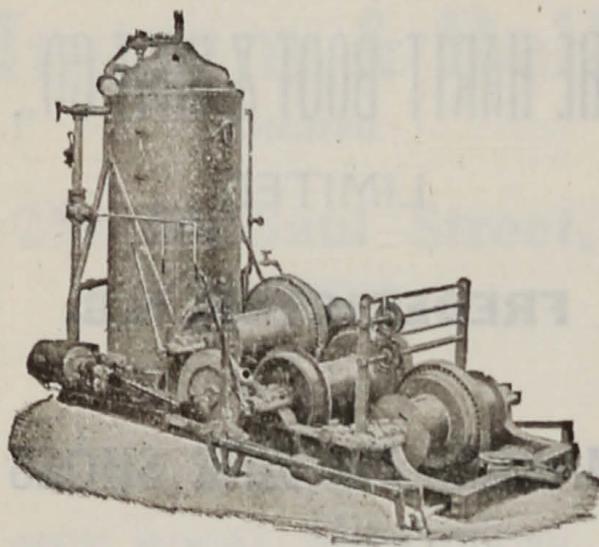


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# THE CIVILIAN

VOL. X.

NOVEMBER 23, 1917.

No. 16

## Is it Millenium?

The first manifesto of Sir Robert Borden surprised the members of the federal Civil Service with the inspiring order that the Outside Service was to be brought under the Merit System; at least to the extent that the Act of 1908 grants a measure of "merit" to the Inside Service. The Prime Minister made Civil Service reform the first plank in his platform of domestic policies. It thus took second place only to the now almost universal policy of carrying on the war. This announcement by the Government marks a new milestone on the thorny road of public service life in Canada, and its significance is not yet appreciated by the fine body of men in the Outside Service who have suffered under the patronage system. This is not all, however, for the Prime Minister has delivered himself of another announcement of declared policy. In a second manifesto he makes an avowal and a declaration which, win or lose, will become a classic in the literature of Canada's public servants. Here it is:

"But there are other reasons why the Union Government should be entrusted with power. It has pledged itself to the extirpation of old abuses and to a wise and bold policy of constructive reform. The system of patronage in the distribution of contracts and offices which has prevailed in Canada for generations has been the root of many political evils.

"It has fostered local and sectional interests incompatible with the national welfare and injurious to the efficiency of the national services. It has troubled representatives of the people, permitted the ascendancy of organized minorities in the constituencies, and affected the independence of Parliament itself. It may be that these evils should have been overcome long ago. Censure may lie upon successive governments which have tolerated the system.

"But inveterate diseases succumb only to heroic treatment—and heroism has not distinguished Canadian parties in dealings with patronage. Generally, governments have lived long in Canada and when for many years distribution of patronage has been confined to the party in power there is a natural disposition to adjust the balance when at length the other party succeeds to office. Once committed to the system, influences are recognized and interests created that are not easily resisted or dislodged.

"It is believed that a Government derived from both political parties and strengthened by special representation of agricultural and organized labor, can act with greater freedom and independence than a Government which held office under the old conditions. Hence the resolution to abolish trading in patronage, *to fill public offices by merit and not by favoritism*, and to establish honest and open competition in awarding contracts and buying supplies."

Ottawa is the primeval, also the "prime evil," hotbed of the patronage crimes which have been carried on in Canada unchecked. It is therefore obviously relevant to place among the Civil Service records a minor manifesto uttered by the senior member lately distributing favors in the constituency of Ottawa. Mr. Fripp, ex-M.P., has delivered himself thus:

"It was a very honorable position being a member of Parliament, but the drawback was that there had grown up in Ottawa a patronage system which had started long before. The fact was that the local members were made employment agents, working every day in the week, except Sunday, from 9 to 5. He went into the fight on the distinct understanding that the patronage system was to be abolished."

In addition to the foregoing gleams of sunshine through the lowering clouds of Civil Service patronage, there is another bright spot which promises to become a rainbow of hope for full emancipation in days to come. No matter how sincere a Government may be as to introducing a Merit System, success depends upon the attitude and efficiency of the gentlemen who form the Civil Service Commission. Officers of the Federation with a local Outside Service delegation recently called upon the Commissioners and spent a couple of hours discussing the difficult problem of bringing the Outside Service under the provisions of the Act of 1908. The delegation agreed that a new era was opening up for Civil Service administration. The new Commissioners showed themselves to be imbued with a sympathetic amenability, coupled with an unswerving compliance with the laws of Equity. It is therefore under most auspicious circumstances that the delegates from all parts of Canada meet in convention on the 27th instant. This convention has upon its shoulders a weighty task. The Commissioners have considerably postponed the presentation of their report to the Premier in order to allow the assembled delegates to formulate and present a statement of their views. Whether we are to have a Millenium of just and efficient public administration will depend not a little upon the wisdom and efficacy of the work of this convention.

### BROTHERS IN ARMS.

Gunner Edward T. Chesley, eldest son of Mr. H. N. P. Chesley, Militia and Defence, has been granted a commission in the Artillery, C.E.F. At the end of a year's course at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, he accepted a temporary position at the Ottawa Experimental Farm, but resigned and enlisted in the 32nd Siege Battery, after qualifying at the School of Artillery, Kingston. In December, 1915, he went overseas with a draft, as sergeant, but becoming dissatisfied with the long detention as a non-commissioned officer, threw up his stripes and went to France at a gunner. After serving a year in France with the 25th Howitzer Battery, he was selected for a course in the Officers' Training Corps in England, at Shorncliffe, Maresfield and Lydd.

His younger brother, Leonard, after graduating from the R.M.C. in August, 1917, was granted a commission

in the Royal Garrison Artillery and is now at the front. The brothers met for twenty-four hours in London after a separation of over two years.

### WAR PERSONALS.

Lieut. A. S. Bleakney, who was wounded at Vimy Ridge, is home.

A. K. Belton, wounded, is the son of the late Customs Inspector Belton, of Toronto.

Gunner R. O. Smith, died of wounds, was a son of William Smith, of the Archives, and a young man of brilliant promise. He was in his twentieth year.

Nursing Sister Louise Manchester, mentioned in Despatches, is a sister of Miss Pearl Manchester, Dept. of Public Works.

Major W. E. Blue is coming home.

E. W. Beckett, Dominion Timber Agent at New Westminster, has been bereaved of his son, who fell, fighting, "somewhere in France."

## Civil Service Casualties.

### CIVIL SERVICE CASUALTIES.

**LIEUT. CHARLES A. HISLOP**, formerly of the 128th Battalion, severely wounded in the leg, is Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service for the Moose Jaw district. He became a railway mail clerk in 1899, and was promoted to the superintendency in 1908. He has "made good" wherever he has been tried out, both in civil and military life.

**CORP. W. D. WALLACE**, formerly of the 128th Battalion, Toronto, wounded, is a Public Works employee. He is injured in the left hand.

**CAPT. OSMUND E. LEROY**, formerly of the 196th Winnipeg Battalion, has died of wounds received in action. He was born in 1873, attained the degrees of B.A., M.Sc., and joined the Geological Survey staff in 1902. In 1912 he was appointed geologist. He was gazetted to a commission in the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Vancouver in 1915.

**LIEUT. W. J. WRIGHT**, formerly with the 69th Battalion, assistant geologist in the Geological Survey, has been wounded.

**LIEUT. W. H. MILLER**, Canadian Engineers, assistant topographer, Geological Survey, has also been wounded.

**CORP. F. G. FORD**, killed in action, was a clerk in the post office in the Union Station, Toronto. He was 30 years of age and was in the 48th Highlanders before the war. In April, 1916, he was twice wounded.

**CLARENCE LONG GIBSON**, of the staff of the Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service at Moose Jaw, was reported as wounded on October 24th, and has since died. He was born at Watford in 1895, joined the mail service in 1913, and enlisted in the 229th Battalion in 1916.

**CAPT. (ACTING MAJ.) B. F. DAVIDSON**, M.C., of the Halifax Customs staff, was wounded on No-

vember 3rd. He is referred to under "Decorations."

**LORNE A. WINTERS**, formerly of the 227th Battalion, wounded, is a railway mail clerk of the North Bay district. He enlisted as a private and attained two stripes, but gave them up to get to the front.

**ARTHUR F. McEACHERN**, of the Dept. of Customs, who went overseas with the 207th Battalion, has been wounded.

**H. H. S. NUTTING**, the well known long distance runner, who is at the front with the Field Artillery, is wounded. He belongs to the Public Works Outside Service, and was formerly in Trade and Commerce.

### OUR DECORATIONS WON.

**G. S. STONE**, railway mail clerk of the Calgary district, has been awarded the Military Medal. He enlisted as a private in the 10th Battalion and has been promoted sergeant. He was wounded in the heavy fighting last April.

"Lieut. Bernard Franklin Davidson killed the crew and captured an enemy machine gun," says the official announcement of awards of the Military Cross. The recipient of the decoration is a Halifax Customs officer, is lieutenant of the Hantsport company of the 81st Regiment, went overseas with the 40th Battalion and has been attached to the 14th. He is now a captain and acting major and was wounded in the recent Ypres advance.

### A NEW SECRETARY.

The position of secretary of the War Committee of the Cabinet has been created, and George Buskard, formerly secretary to the Minister of Public Works, has been appointed.

## THE DAPPER SLACKER'S PRAYER.

(By *James Lawler*.)

O give us vict'ry, gracious Lord,  
 O let the Allies win,  
 O may our glorious armies soon  
     Go marching to Berlin.  
 O may our men care naught for death,  
     Care naught for fire and sword,—  
 I, too, do sacrifices make,  
     I do, upon my word.

I do not leave the primrose path  
 (Thou would'st not ask that, sure),  
 But barring that, one scarce can name  
     A toil I don't endure.  
 Of course, I cannot go to war  
     (I fear my dainty skin),  
 But if the floor and music's good  
     I dance against Berlin.

Five nights a week I go to balls  
 To help the Belgians, poor,  
 (I think they're Belgians, though, of course,  
     I really can't be sure),  
 And then I often risk my health  
     At divers times and dates,  
 To aid the suffering Serbians,  
     By eating chocolates.  
     (\$1 per box at the stall nearest the door.)

And when the brazen gong doth call  
 To dine for causes true,  
 I challenge Indigestion's worst,  
     And chew, and chew, and chew.  
 I vote our generals stupid fools,  
     Their tactics, old and thin;  
 I'd lay a waxen dancing floor,  
     And dance into Berlin.

## AN ACTUARY'S "NOTES."

"Notes on the Calculation of Tables of Policy Values" is the title of a monograph by A. D. Watson, of the Department of Insurance, reprinted from the Transactions of the Actuarial Society of America. Mr. Watson takes up a subject of imminent importance in the insurance world and handles it with a technical thoroughness and dexterity that is bewildering to the layman but a delight

to the actuary. His "Notes" will attract wide attention among men of his profession.

## TO RAILWAY BOARD.

Major Graham A. Bell, financial comptroller and assistant to the Minister in the Department of Railways and Canals, has been appointed one of the Government directors on the Canadian Northern Railway Board.

## The Roll of Honour.

Volunteers from the Public Service of Canada for active military service.  
Number of names previously published—4,007.

### EIGHTY-SIXTH LIST.

J. M. Barton, Railway Mail Clerk, St. John District, 58th Howitzer Battery.  
 C. W. Martin, Controller's Office, R.M.S., Ottawa, 207th Battalion.  
 L. A. Winters, Railway Mail Clerk, North Bay District, 227th Battalion.  
 I. E. Brown, Railway Mail Clerk, Toronto District, Cyclists.  
 T. W. Boyd, Railway Mail Clerk, Toronto District, 227th Battalion.  
 H. Dook, Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg District, C.A.V.C.  
 Lieut. Walter Hay, Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg District, 61st Battalion.  
 C. L. Gibson, Railway Mail Clerk, Moose Jaw District, 229th Battalion.  
 A. M. Davidson, Railway Mail Clerk, Moose Jaw District, 174th Cameronians.  
 Sergt. G. G. McWilliams, Railway Mail Clerk, Moose Jaw District, 229th Battalion.  
 F. D. McLean, Railway Mail Clerk, Saskatoon District, C.A.M.C.  
 H. R. Mason, Railway Mail Clerk, Calgary District, 15th Brigade, C.F.A.  
 J. C. Fry, Railway Mail Clerk, Calgary District, 61st Battery, C.F.A.  
 A. R. Eason, Railway Mail Clerk, Calgary District, 196th Battalion.  
 V. M. Hayward, Railway Mail Clerk, Calgary District, 61st Battery, C.F.A.  
 J. Witts, Railway Mail Clerk, Vancouver District, Canadian Engineers.  
 E. H. Sankey, Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg District.  
 A. Coppleman, Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg District, 108th Battalion.  
 M. D. Craig, Railway Mail Clerk, Moose Jaw District, 76th Battery, C.F.A.  
 John Bishop, Post Office, Winnipeg.  
 Francis Ewan Donaldson, Post Office, Winnipeg.  
 Cecil Herbert Doyle, Railway Mail Clerk, North Bay District, C. S. Siege Battery.  
 Hugh William Hughes, Post Office, Winnipeg, 78th Battalion.  
 Forest Latimer, Post Office Dept., Ottawa.  
 Alexander Frederick Morney, Post Office Dept., Ottawa.  
 Frank Ronald Moore, Railway Mail Clerk, Moose Jaw District.  
 Harry Alfred Murphy, Post Office Supt.'s Office, Saskatoon District.  
 Harry Twigg, Post Office, Kingston.  
 Herbert Swetman White, Post Office, Lethbridge.  
 2nd Lieut. L. F. Merrylees, Quebec Bridge staff, Royal Engineers.  
 Lieut. H. E. Bates, Quebec Bridge staff, 66th Battery, C.F.A.  
 R. J. McMillan, Quebec Bridge staff, 66th Battery, C.F.A.  
 A. F. Smith, Quebec Bridge staff, 66th Battery, C.F.A.  
 (Additional list from the Welland Canal staff):  
 Harry B. Bowman, C.A.S.C.  
 Claude Boucher, 86th Machine Gun Battalion.  
 M. G. Church, Royal Flying Corps.  
 William Erskine.  
 R. J. Griffith.  
 W. B. Jamieson, 176th Battalion.  
 Clarence Martin, 86th Machine Gun Battalion.  
 H. F. Marten, Canadian Engineers.  
 Harry Mackenzie, C.A.S.C.  
 A. Malcolmson, C.F.A.  
 Frank McAuliffe, Royal Navy.  
 V. B. Newhouse.  
 W. R. Nickle.  
 W. E. Plummer, Canadian Engineers.  
 A. F. Smith, Royal Flying Corps.  
 J. E. Sears, Canadian Engineers.  
 L. G. Woodley, 63rd Battery, C.F.A.

# THE CIVILIAN

Devoted to the interests of the Civil Service of Canada.

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Single copies 5 cents.

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THE CIVILIAN, P. O. Box 484, Ottawa.

Ottawa, November 23, 1917

## THE NATIONAL DUTY.

Remember that other Canadian mothers have sons in the trenches, that other Canadian sisters have brothers on the firing line, that members of their families are as dear to them as are yours to you.

—Sir Robert Borden.

Failure means that the light of freedom will go out. Failure means that civilization would perish from the earth.

—Hon. W. H. Hearst.

Better the thrust of an unbroken army than a broken faith.

—Lloyd George.

I would rather be a hero's widow than a coward's wife.

—A Soldier's Widow, mother of ten.

The young and strong men of today are merely asked to do as much for their children and their homes as was done for them by their sires.

—Hon. David MacKeen.

The war will end when its object has been attained under God; it will never end until we achieve the object.

—Lincoln (quoted by Lloyd George).

“If fate claims the best, it is not unjust. The less noble who survive will thereby be made better. . . . Nothing is lost. . . . The true death would be to live in a conquered country.

—A French Soldier.

## THE MELTING POT.

Patronage may be likened to a Kaizer, because it is cruel and unjust, or to an ogre, because it feeds on human beings. The reasons why the abuses of appointments and promotions by patronage have been endured may be now profitably reviewed at this juncture. It has been an unwritten law of the land that a civil servant may not have any recourse against the Government in case he suffers a grievance. He was told he could not take his case before the bar of public opinion—the press—as by so doing he was supplying ammunition to the Opposition, and this could not be tolerated for the comparatively insignificant object of attaining justice. A civil servant has been dismissed by Order-in-Council without cause and he could not bring a case against his employer in the civil courts either for damages or explanation. And so it comes that the Kaizer Patronage has been allowed to flourish in the land; Canada thus being a Democracy only in form.

\* \* \*

Under arbitrary government, the tyrant and a small select coterie dole out the patronage of public office. But perhaps it is not realized that under a Democracy the Patronage System has its thousands of tyrants. Here is the system: In every constituency, in every ward and township, there are professional politicians during election time. These are rewarded for their services, not usually by money, but by pelf, i.e., public office or by promises of same. They in turn become indebted to others for services rendered to the party machine. After the election the successful party takes office and is besieged by hordes of claimants for public office and they must be satisfied or how will the next election be won? This brief review of a cold fact is for the purpose of reminding the forthcoming Federation convention that a

## OUR BOYS

Previously reported:

Dead	282
Wounded	401
Prisoners	19

### DEAD

CAPT. OSMUND E LEROY.  
CORP. F. G. FORD.  
CLARENCE LONG GIBSON.

### WOUNDED

LIEUT. CHAS. A. HISLOP.  
CORP. W. D. WALLACE.  
LIEUT. W. J. WRIGHT.  
LIEUT. W. H. MILLER.  
ACT. MAJ. B. F. DAVIDSON.  
LORNE A. WINTERS.  
H. H. S. NUTTING.  
A. F. McEACHERN.

stroke of the pen is not going to transport them into a paradise of bliss where there will be no pre-election promises and no office seekers.

\* \* \*

In the first article in this issue will be found a sacred promise given to the Civil Service of Canada by the first citizen of the land upon a solemn occasion when the country is in the throes of an almost super-human death struggle. No one can doubt the sincerity of the Prime Minister. His frank and penitential confession of failure in the past to remove this shameful system "which has threatened the independence of Parliament" is pregnant with truth.

But it is questionable if the evil will be eradicated except in degree unless there is a severe reform of the electoral laws, such as: (1) publication in detail of the sources and amount of election contributions and payments; (2) confining legitimate election expenses to hire of halls, literature and transportation; (3) making it unlawful to canvass a voter personally, and confining the

education of the electorate to lectures and literature; (4) making it a criminal offence to promise public office or contract as a pre-election bribe; (5) that no member of Parliament shall be eligible for public office until five years from the date of his retirement from Parliament, and not then if there be a person in the government service fitted to perform the work required; (6) Proportional Representation, Initiation, Referendum and Recall; (7) that penalties for infraction of the electoral laws be increased, and in cases of giving or receiving bribes the death sentence be exacted.

\* \* \*

The guarantees of the Prime Minister are the greatest event in the history of civil servants of Canada. But man still has all the human frailties, and the parasites of Kaizer Patronage will feed on the liver of the Government, the moment the result of the election is declared, unless a stern example is made by means of a firing party at a muster reveille parade. Should the Prime Minister fail to forcibly carry out his design, for it will require force, there is yet the Reserve Force of the great C.E.F. party to be formed in Canada. If that new force in Canadian political life does not see purely and act swiftly, it will indeed have gone through its fiery ordeal in vain.

\* \* \*

In the meantime a new vista has opened for this magazine. Heretofore *The Civilian* has been hampered by the restrictions imposed upon all civil servants to speak out the truth, as we knew it meant suppression under the tyranny of Kaizer Patronage. How near we have been to the precipice we do not know. Such was the system. Such is no longer the system. *The Civilian* may now become the organ of the Civil Service in reality. Cases of injustice, of grievances may now be specifically brought to public notice through the columns

of this journal. If a member of Parliament or a party henchman takes office, as heretofore, over the heads of competent civil servants of long standing, the subject may be aired in these columns. The Government is sincere in the utterance made by the Prime Minister and will consequently welcome public notice of any act of its own or of its agents which is at variance with this great principle of justice; a principle which no doubt owes its birth to the travail of soul of all good men in a time of wholesale murder, suffering and death.

#### A COMING REORGANIZATION.

"There's manny a thing done on the field of battle that nivver gets into field ordhers," says the immortal Terence Mulvaney. So there are many things done because the nation is at war that would never have been done in peace conditions.

This must be the reflection of one who considered the position of the organization that carries on the work of civil government at this time. The outbreak of war made sudden and peremptory demand upon the country for new services in a hundred different lines besides that of providing men for the firing line. Money had to be raised in unheard of sums; the whole machinery of production had to be speeded up; the dependents of soldiers, and the returning soldiers themselves, had to be provided for. All this new business could not be made to conform with the old standards. In effect a new Civil Service had to be created. And now we have hundreds, even thousands, of employees who are doing Civil Service work but who have quite a different standing from their fellow-workers of the old Civil Service.

But in other affairs people are following the excellent rule, "In war prepare for peace." Economic production, migration, military preparedness and many other matters are un-

der discussion now with a view to the nation's future.

The wise men of Canada must know —for it is a necessary part of wisdom—that the Civil Service is one and permanent, and that therefore it must be dealt with on lines of unified policy.

How, then, are all the new branches of the Civil Service, with their many employees, to be handled when peace conditions once more prevail?

This is a problem of the future, but one main duty of to-day is to consider the problems of to-morrow.

Win the war.

The more gold the less blood.

Buy Victory bonds now. List closes next week—or sooner.

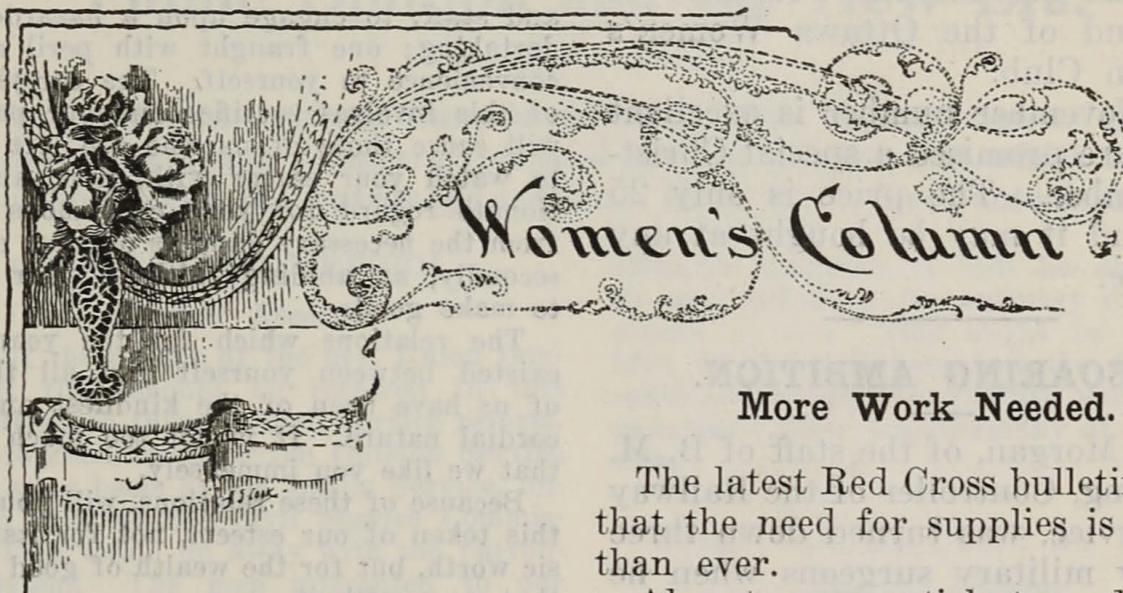
Keep out of debt. Don't let your subscription run out. Watch your label.

The Roll of Honor is closed to Class I men from October 13th. Several departments have sent in their last enlistments, and there are some names awaiting publication. Correspondents who have been keen on getting names for the roll are requested to transfer their activities to the casualty lists.

#### DR. HIGGINS LEAVES.

Dr. Charles A. Higgins, chief pathologist, Department of Agriculture, has resigned his position in order to follow private pursuits. On taking leave of the laboratory staff he was made the recipient of a gold-mounted ebony cane and an address expressing regret at his departure and good wishes for his future.

Dr. Seymour Hadmen, who received his training under Dr. Higgins, has been appointed his successor.



### The Next Meeting.

Since the Civil Service Federation of Canada is to hold a convention in Ottawa beginning on Tuesday, Nov. 27th, the Women's Branch has decided to postpone its meeting of that date to Saturday evening, December 1st.

This meeting promises to be unusually interesting, so all members are urged to come, and all those women who haven't as yet taken an interest in our work are cordially invited to be present.

The *pièce de résistance* of the evening will be an address by Mr. T. B. Kidner, vocational secretary of the Military Hospitals Commission.

The work that Mr. Kidner and his associates are doing is one that we hear little about, so probably the speaker will have some big surprises for us in the way of information.

Next in importance to the problem of winning the war comes that of the returned soldier, and of the Commission's work for the latter Mr. Kidner will be able to speak.

Our Red Cross committee will have on hand the usual amount of work, but each knitter is asked to bring her knitting. If you are not knitting bring scissors and thimble.

The meeting will be in the lecture hall of the Y.W.C.A. at eight o'clock, and every one is requested to be sharp on time.

### More Work Needed.

The latest Red Cross bulletin shows that the need for supplies is greater than ever.

Almost every article turned out by the Society is marked with a double asterisk which means that each worker's efforts must be redoubled.

The end of the month will see all Christmas boxes on their way overseas, so there will be no excuse for not attacking the hospital things with renewed vigor.

Surely no woman in Canada will be guilty this year of making Christmas gifts for her friends at home! Both her money and time are needed elsewhere.

If one must send Christmas gifts, let her buy Red Cross pins or membership cards, Soldiers' Aid Commission pins; adopt a prisoner of war in her friend's name; pay for an annual subscription to the Auxiliary of the Great War Veterans' Association, —in short buy nothing but what will contribute in some way to a Red Cross or patriotic fund.

### The Maple Leaf.

The good old custom of sending Christmas cards to our friends has been revived to a large extent in the last few years. Since the war we all have been pleased to receive greeting cards from the boys at the front, and this year perhaps more cards will be exchanged than ever before.

Why not kill two birds with one stone by using a copy of "The Maple Leaf" instead of a card.

This little magazine is edited by Lieut. Chas. Crean, and the proceeds

of its sale are for the Prisoners of War fund of the Ottawa Women's Canadian Club.

The November number is excellent and we are promised a special Christmas number. The price is only 25 cents, and it may be bought at any bookstore.

### A SOARING AMBITION.

Irwin Morgan, of the staff of B. M. Armstrong, Controller of the Railway Mail Service, was turned down three times by military surgeons when he tried to enlist. He tried a fourth time, passed, and is now with the Royal Flying Corps in Toronto.

On the eve of his departure his chief officiated at the presentation to him, on behalf of the staff, of an engraved cigarette case and the following address:

Dear friend and colleague,—

In response to the nation's call for men, and more men, you are about to leave us,

the Controller of the Railway Mail Service and staff, to engage upon a hazardous undertaking; one fraught with peril and inconvenience to yourself. The carrying out of this involves sacrifice on your part and will cause those of us who are left behind to watch your career with, first, an affectionate regard for your continuous escape from the necessary dangers of your calling; secondly, an abiding faith in your ability to make good.

The relations which for ten years have existed between yourself and all the rest of us have been of the kindest and most cordial nature. It is not too much to say that we like you immensely.

Because of these relations, will you accept this token of our esteem, not for its intrinsic worth, but for the wealth of good feeling that goes with it.

### ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the C. S. Association of Ottawa was held on Tuesday evening last, the 20th inst. *The Civilian* is unable to report the result of the meeting in this issue on account of lack of time to get matter into type.

## PATRIOTISM & PROFIT

Combine to make Victory Bonds the most important and attractive investment ever offered to Canadians.

It takes money to keep our boys at the front. That is why a Victory Bond is a Patriotic Investment, the Bond carries  $5\frac{1}{2}\%$  interest. That is why it is a profitable investment.

Every Canadian should put his spare cash into Victory Bonds—then borrow from the Banks and keep on buying

## VICTORY BONDS

Space donated to  
Victory Loan Committee  
by the Manufacturers of  
"MURAD CIGARETTES"

## Public Opinion and the New Era.

*The Service throughout Canada will appreciate the expressions of opinion from the press which formerly followed the old parties, but which now have sternly denounced the patronage system. Here are a few quotations:*

### CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

*Windsor Record.*

One of the planks of the new Union Government that should be received in this city with much favor is Civil Service reform. It is proposed to place the Outside Service on the same basis as the Inside Service, under the rules of the Civil Service Commission. This would do away with the patronage system. The men appointed to our customs and immigration service here are not chosen for their knowledge or capacity for service, but are selected on account of their political pull.

### THE PATRONAGE SYSTEM.

*Saskatoon Star.*

Nothing in the Union Government's manifesto, so far as it relates to matters of purely domestic concern, will give greater satisfaction than the declaration of its intention to place the Outside Civil Service entirely under the Civil Service Commission, now reorganized and strengthened. As The Star has declared many times in the past, the patronage system is the great enemy of efficiency in the public service. It should have been abolished long ago, but that is not a step a party Government would take without prayerful consideration, for the system has been one of the chief means of building up a party organization.

### PATRONAGE MUST GO.

*Victoria Times (Liberal).*

But the abolition of the patronage system is demanded by a more important consideration than a bridge between two elements in the cabinet. It is made imperative by a difficult financial situation. Canada's ordinary expenditure of the last few years has been characterized by the wildest extravagance. Millions were expended in works where they were not needed, while legitimate requirements of other places were disregarded. Supplies were purchased without regard to value received. War expenditures to a large extent were directed in the same way. All this was due to a rampant patronage system. The result was the increase of taxation and debt charges away beyond what otherwise would have been the case. Obviously this could not be continued without disaster. If the Government will put its plans as announced into

effective operation it will be able to cut its appropriations for ordinary expenditure almost in two. This might be a terrible blow to the spoilsman, but the feelings of spoilsman should be ignored without compunction. They are unworthy of consideration.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE BY UNION.

*Calgary Albertan.*

To its credit one of the first moves of the Union Government was to throw the patronage lists into the garbage heap, and destroy the patronage system entirely.

It is surprising how easily it was done, and how quickly it was done, when a good, strong Government undertook it.

The new Government in that one move will save the country many millions, and transform public life in Canada.

### PATRONAGE COMMON TO OLD PARTIES.

*Hamilton Spectator.*

The edict now proclaimed at Ottawa, that henceforth the custom of "patronage" in the procuring of supplies is to be totally abolished, following the recent extension of Civil Service reform, will be most welcome to political reformers, who have seen in this custom the chief impediment in their way. Both parties have been wedded to it.

### PUBLIC BACKING NEEDED.

*Toronto Mail and Empire.*

If the men who are working together in the Union Government have the high conception of their duty we credit them with, they will not give much thought to "politics" as that term has come to be generally understood. If they are in earnest now, they cannot be thinking of or looking forward to a re-forming of party lines. If there has to be a return to the old system of party strife and party patronage it will have to be endured, but the members of the Union Government ought not to be waiting for the caucus drill sergeant's command, "As you were!"

### PARTY MACHINES WORK FOR PATRONAGE.

*Toronto Globe.*

The abolition of the patronage system, both in appointments to the Civil Service

## MEETING PLACE FOR FEDERATION.

The meetings of the Convention of the Civil Service Federation of Canada will be held in the House of Commons Chamber, Victoria Museum, on Tuesday, 27th inst., as soon as the delegates assemble.

and in the purchase of public supplies, will work a beneficent revolution in Canadian polities by cutting at the root of some of its gravest evils. The interest of many men in public affairs is merely self-interest. When their party is in power they harass public men by their importunities for office, or contracts, or some place at the public crib. When their party is in opposition their zeal is a lively sense of favors to come. They try to establish a claim to reward by a bustling prominence in party "machine" activities, which gives them a power out of all proportion to their number and personal standing. Without patronage they will cease from troubling, much to the relief of public-spirited men whose interest in politics is the welfare of their country.

## FOR SUPERANNUATION.

Hon. Frank Oliver appeared as an advocate of public service superannuation during a recent debate in Parliament. The Commons were discussing a proposed "compassionate allowance" to the widow of a penitentiary official of long service who died, leaving a large family and small means. Hansard has the following:

Mr. OLIVER: I hope I shall not be accused of suggesting extravagant expenditures to the Government, when I say that, while I feel we should be careful as to the amount of money we expend, I also feel that in the cases of many classes of officials of the Government we should have some system by which consideration will be given to them if they retire because of physical unfitness, or to their dependent families in case of death. Many of the great institutions of the country have adopted that principle. In the case of penitentiary officials and others where special trustworthiness is required and where the remuneration

is by no means large, the public interest would be served by carrying out the principle now invoked in the case of men retiring owing to physical unfitness. Where a faithful man has left a dependent family it would not be going too far to give to that dependent family the full amount of the so-called gratuity to which, under the system adopted in the penitentiaries, the man himself would have been entitled had he been retired because of physical unfitness.

## OPEN WINTER COMING— MAYBE.

Listen to the best news you've heard  
for many a day:  
We're to have an open winter—hip,  
hip, hurray!  
The hickory nuts are scarce and the  
beech nuts, too,  
And the wild geese fly north, right  
in people's view.

Father Zero, Miss Snow and fresh  
Jack Frost look glum,  
For they think an open winter will  
put them on the bum;  
But we'll give them the ha-ha! and  
other jeers like that,  
Until the nasty, cold guys wonder  
where they're at.

O, we will all economize on rubber,  
wool and fur,  
And spend the money saved on Christ-  
mas gifts for "her."  
Ho, ho! Ha, ha! And likewise, he!  
he!! he!!!  
What's wrong with open winter? It  
is all right for me.

—Garrett O'Connor.  
Bridgeburg, Niagara River.

## To "Civilian" Readers.

Canvassers and collectors have been practically unobtainable during the past three years. Readers of this journal who believe there is a future for such a publication in the Service may cast a vote for its continued existence in the following manner: If a subscriber, examine the date on the cover label, and, if not paid up, send one dollar to P. O. Box 484. If not a subscriber, help your paper along by sending your name to the above address. Do it now, and commence with the next number, which will contain the report of a most important assembly of civil servants.

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MONTRÉAL.

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## THE DOMINION RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS' FEDERATION.

Proceedings of the First Annual Convention, Held at the Russell Hotel,  
Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th, 1917.

The President, Mr. C. E. Power, of Halifax, occupied the chair.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen, I wish to express my extreme gratification at finding such a number of delegates present, representing, as you do, every Division Association in the Dominion, as well as my appreciation of my privilege in presiding at this first annual convention.

Many of us have looked forward to the formation of an organization such as we now have, but for some reason our efforts were never successful until the present time; while we had several Division Associations in the East, because of lack of unity, they never were co-ordinated; however, the call came from the West to every one of us to unite with them who had been successful in forming a western organization.

Well, gentlemen, you are all aware that the meeting in Winnipeg in January was successful in organizing our present Federation. While our efforts greatly exceeded my expectations, still owing to the small number of delegates in attendance there, we must carefully examine the work which was done, with the view of suggesting possible improvements, as it is highly necessary that our edifice should rest upon a firm foundation.

You will find that our Secretary has everything carefully prepared for us, and it will be necessary for us to consider the various questions as they are introduced, with the purpose of securing the greatest good for the greatest number. Now, gentlemen, we will proceed to business.

## ROLL CALL.

C. E. Power, President; W. G. Jessop, First Vice-President; W. F. Griffith, Second Vice-President; F. D. Sharman, Third Vice-President; M. H. McLellan, Treasurer; C. A. Hives, Secretary; A. Methot, Auditor; Messrs. Audet, Ferguson, Brownell and Penton, Executive. Delegates: F. N. McMillan, Halifax; O. C. Matthews, St. John; J. P. MacDermott, Quebec; J. P. C. Giroux, Montreal; F. Carruthers, Ottawa; G. R. Jackson, Toronto; W. T. Barringer, North Bay; R. Laing, Winnipeg; E. Riley, Saskatoon; A. E. Parker, Moose Jaw; E. Ironside, Calgary, and G. Hawkins, of Moose Jaw, representing Vancouver.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Owing to the fact that our organization is not quite complete, in so far as our final

1917 per capita tax has not all been paid, it is almost impossible for me to give you a correct detailed statement of membership. We have approximately 900 clerks on duty who are members of the Federation, more than 200 clerks have enlisted for war (17 of them have paid the supreme sacrifice) most of whom were Association members prior to enlisting. We have approximately 1,150 clerks in the Service (permanent), so I consider that we have made good progress for the first year of our Federation.

We hope that before the next convention every Division will be able to report a 100 per cent membership.

Moved by Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Laing, that the Secretary's report be accepted, and that he supply *The Civilian* with information on the number of members killed in action.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

## Mail Cars.

We, your Committee on Mail Cars, beg to report as follows: That the mail cars in Canada, with inconsiderable numerical exceptions (where steel cars are in use) are not fit and proper cars for the Service, being generally old remodelled baggage-cars and passenger coaches, and are inadequate in almost every particular. We recommend that the Department be requested to require that all mail cars be of steel construction or such other material as its equivalent in strength, and that the old type of cars (wooden) be entirely discarded.

(Sgd.) W. G. Jessop.  
W. F. Griffith.  
F. D. Sharman.

Moved by Mr. Jessop, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, that the committee's report be adopted.—Carried.

Report of Division Association Committee  
on Mail Cars.

It is the opinion of this committee that all mail cars should be of steel construction, and Government owned; the hygienic system should be the same as the pullman cars, because in the winter time it is impossible on account of drifting snow to keep the closets clean, and as mail clerks spend almost all their time on duty in mail cars, they should be made as comfortable as possible; the lighting system should also be of the latest and most improved system; gas or electric stoves should be provided in all mail cars in order to procure a hot meal, particularly on long runs and in the winter time.

*Superannuation.*

We, your Committee on Superannuation, have considered the data available in connection therewith and beg to report as follows: That we have made a careful study of Bill 229, and have also observed the report made by a committee of the Civil Service Federation regarding the proposed Bill. But your committee find after a close analysis that the Bill is far from being acceptable to the railway mail clerks of the Service.

In the first instance, whereas mail clerks are paid by the usual statutory increases, in most cases of \$50.00 annually, thereby requiring twelve years to attain the maximum salary (providing all case examinations are passed), therefore the Bill works less favorable towards our branch of the Service than to those who reach their maximum in far less time, which is the case with almost all other departments. This disadvantage is emphasized when we observe that the retiring allowance provided is based on the total amount of salary earned by the clerk previous to his retirement.

If he be incapacitated early in life, say before reaching a salary of \$1,000 (of our clerks, approximately 53 per cent are within that category), his allowance would only amount to about \$13.00 per month.

We also note the inadequate allowance made to widows and children of civil servants; in no case may a widow receive more than \$600.00 per year, regardless of the number of children she is left with.

Another objection is the clause providing forfeiture of all contributions of a male contributor dying and not leaving a widow or children. This provision might be excusable if we could regard it as a mutual benefit scheme, but we cannot consider it as such, while the rate of contribution is so high, being 5½ per cent of the employees' salary.

We cannot end our criticism without referring to the clause permitting the seizure of an employee's total contribution if he is dismissed from the Service, without protest, for we are aware of the possibility of an employee being dismissed from the Service unjustly, and to have his entire contribution confiscated while doing faithful work for the Government is, in our opinion, far from being commendable.

We recommend that a railway mail clerk, owing to his working conditions being much more hazardous than any other Government employee, should receive his superannuation voluntary, after not more than 25 years' service, and at 50 or 55 years of age.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Sgd.) M. H. McLellan.  
H. Penton.  
C. A. Hives.

Moved by Mr. McLellan, seconded by Mr. Barringer, that the committee's report be received and adopted.

*Clause 16, Agenda.*

Moved by Mr. Sharman, seconded by Mr. McMillan, that for the present we defer consideration of affiliation with the Postal Clerks' Association.—Carried.

*Clause 16b, Agenda.*

Moved by Mr. Hives, seconded by Mr. Audet, that this convention take no action on the question of affiliation with the Trades and Labor Council.—Carried.

*Appointments.*

That this Federation is of the opinion that it is detrimental to the general welfare and efficiency of the R.M.S. to promote a railway mail clerk to a permanent appointment on the qualification (only) of the preliminary examination, and that the Government be asked to make it compulsory for all clerks in order to secure their appointment to take their qualifying examination.

That this resolution of the Agenda be adopted.—Carried.

*Report of Division Association Committee on Appointments.*

The only manner in which the status, salary and future of every clerk in the R.M.S. can be improved upon is by raising the standard of qualification; the higher the standard the higher the wage, and also a higher class of clerks will enter the Service.

Since 1911, clerks have been appointed with increasing rapidity, without passing the qualifying examination; such men soon become permanent and reach the maximum of their class (thereby re-introducing the class system to our Department).

*Clause 8a, Agenda.*

Moved by Mr. Riley, seconded by Mr. Parker, that Resolution 8a of Agenda be adopted after being amended to read as follows: That this Federation go on record against positions of superintendents, assistants or chief clerks, and case examiners, being given to any one except railway mail clerks who have served not less than five years on the road, and would strongly oppose the appointment to such positions of any one other than a railway mail clerk.—Carried.

Mr. Halladay, of the Civil Service Federation, introduced Mr. Evans, of the London and Lancashire Accident Insurance Co., who addressed the convention, and in his remarks said that only 10 per cent of the railway mail clerks had taken out this insurance. Therefore it would be necessary to raise the rates of insurance, but if 50 per cent or 60 per cent of the clerks would give the company their insurance the old rates would be maintained.

Moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Giroux, that this convention endorse the London and Lancashire Insurance Co., and all members are requested to use their individual influence to induce at least 50 per

cent of our clerks to take this company's insurance.—Carried.

*Income Tax.*

Moved by Mr. Brownell, seconded by Mr. McLellan, that correspondence in connection with income tax on civil servants be filed, but that no action be taken at this convention.—Carried.

*Clause 15, Agenda.*

Moved by Mr. Brownell, seconded by Mr. Parker, that the question of a Postal Magazine be deferred to the next convention.—Carried.

*By-laws.*

The Committee on Revision of By-laws reported some progress, but were unable to complete their work, so were relieved of further duty during this convention.

*Next Convention.*

The question of where the 1918 convention was to be held received the consideration of the convention.

Moved by Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Giroux, that the next convention (1918) be held in Quebec City.—Carried.

*Benevolent Association.*

Moved by Mr. McLellan, seconded by Mr. Penton, that the Executive appoint a committee with power to add to their number to meet the Executive of the Benevolent Association for the purpose of endeavoring to amalgamate or affiliate the Benevolent Association and the Federation.—Carried.

*General Policy.*

That all business to be brought before subsequent conventions by the various Divisions or Branch Associations be sent to the Federation Secretary 60 days before the date of convention, and by him submitted to each Association for discussion and action 30 days prior to such convention.

That whereas every member of a Division Association is, by virtue of that membership, a member of the Dominion Federation, a By-law shall be introduced which will provide for a member of any Branch or Division Association attending the meetings of any other Branch or Division, said member shall also be given the right to vote on all subjects under discussion, except exclusive business of said Branch or Division Association.

*Division Meetings.*

Moved by Mr. Sharman, seconded by Mr. Laing, that this convention recommend to all Division Associations that members of other Division Associations be accorded the privilege of attendance at their meetings, and permitted to express their opinion during proceedings of a general nature.—Carried unanimously.

*Suspension of By-laws.*

Moved by Mr. Sharman, seconded by Mr.

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THE YEAR”**

WILL those Officers of the Civil Service to whom the above-named illustrated book was sent for perusal a year ago kindly return to M. B. COTSWORTH, at the WINDSOR HOTEL, OTTAWA.

Riley, that Article 11 of the By-laws be suspended during the consideration of a Notice of Motion.—Carried.

*Amendment of By-law 11.*

Moved by Mr. McLellan, seconded by Mr. Laing, that Article 11, Section 1, of the By-laws be so amended to read as follows: The Constitution and By-laws may be amended at any Federation meeting, of which Notice of Motion has been given at a previous convention, or by notice given in the Agenda, and provided that two-thirds of the governing body are in favor of the amendment.—Carried.

*Notices of Motion.*

The Secretary requested that Notices of Motion to amend the By-laws be submitted to him in time for inclusion in the convention Agenda, in order that each Division Association be given the opportunity of considering such proposed amendments.

*Vote of Thanks.*

Moved by Mr. Hives, seconded by Mr. Penton, that a vote of thanks be personally tendered to Mr. Jackson for his able assistance to the Secretary during the convention.—Carried.

*Adjournment.*

Moved by Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Penton, that this convention adjourn to meet again in Quebec City next year.—Carried.

C. E. POWER,  
President.

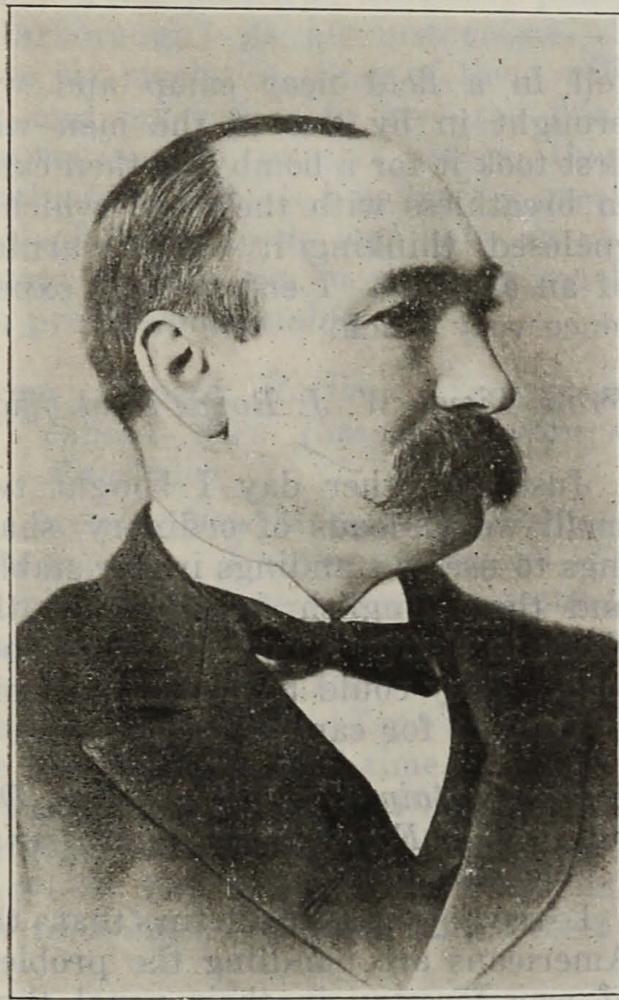
C. A. HIVES,  
Secretary.

**CANDIDATES.**

Lieut.-Col. D. C. Draper, D.S.O., formerly a Customs officer in Montreal, was nominated as Win-the-War candidate in Brome county.

L. H. Martel, formerly of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, is the Liberal candidate in Hants, N.S.

## THE LATE DAVID CREIGHTON.



The Public Service has suffered a loss in the recent death of David Creighton, who was Asst. Receiver General in the Toronto branch of the Finance Dept. Mr. Creighton passed away in his 74th year, having been born in 1843. Mr. Creighton was one of the founders of the Toronto Mail and Empire, and for some years took a share in its management. On May 10th, 1895, he was appointed Asst. Receiver General at Toronto, and until his death performed his public duties in an unostentatious but most conscientious manner. Mr. Creighton was endowed by lavish nature with unusual qualities of heart and fine feelings which made his fellowman's sorrows his own. Rarely did a man in trouble appeal to him in vain for succor, financial or otherwise. *The Civilian* extends sincere sympathy to the family in their most serious loss.

## OBITUARY.

Cecil Flewin, Customs officer at Port Simpson, B.C., went out alone on November 5th in a small boat, which was later found, bottom upward. No trace of Flewin could be found by search parties.

S. T. Wood, the noted journalist, naturalist and author, who died in Toronto on November 6th, was the father of Samuel D. Wood, of Toronto post office staff.

Jackson Wood, drug appraiser in the customs house, Toronto, died on November 12th. He leaves a widow and family.

Lieut.-Col. Edward Harrison, for thirty-five years in the Department of the Secretary of State, died on November 16th, aged 66 years. He belonged to Belleville and was prominent in military circles there for many years. He served in the Fenian Raids, rose to the command of the 49th Hastings Rifles, and received the long service decoration. He also took an active and creditable part in both North West rebellion campaigns.

Katherine Wade, widow of the late F. L. Jones, inspector of customs, died on November 16th. She was a sister of A. V. Wade of the Customs, who passed away last month.

Margaret Macdonald, relict of the late J. L. P. O'Hanley, died in Ottawa on November 18th, aged eighty-one years. She was the mother of R. W. O'Hanley of the Dept. of the Interior, of M. C. O'Hanley of the Dept. of Agriculture, and of J. M. O'Hanley. There are also three daughters.

## PERSONAL.

Maurice Laframboise, translator, of the House of Commons staff, was married at St. Paul's church, Aylmer, on November 15th, to Frances, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Woods.

T. J. Daley, of the Department of the Interior, was married on November 7th to Bertha Drysdale, of the Census staff.

## From Forestry Men at the Front

*From Capt. L. N. Seaman, Forest Products Laboratories:*

Since writing last I have been posted to a Howitzer Battery. We came out here over a month ago and have since been situated in a very warm corner of the line, pushing over large pills towards Fritz with a long thrust, and I have good reason to believe with splendid precision and effect. It is hard work, and trying, but my knowledge of engineering has been of the greatest value to me in moving our piece, as I am the only officer in the Battery with any engineering experience at all.

*From Pte. Frank Haworth, Forest Ranger, Clearwater Forest, writing from France:*

This is a finely wooded country—some of the finest beech I ever saw. Some of them are as large as 3½ or 4 feet on the stump. Also some very fine oak. There seems to be very little soft wood. Some pine, but very small.

*From Lieut. L. C. Tilt, Assistant to the Dominion District Forest Inspector for Manitoba:*

I was down to see an extra fine stand of oak recently in the Forest of Compeigne, which runs about 50M. ft. B.M. per acre. This is used as a park now and they are only cutting the trees that blow down. There are numerous oak there 30 inches and 90 feet high. There is one they have named the Oak of the Allies. It is over 6 feet in diameter and 110 feet high and is certainly a fine tree.

*From Lieut. R. G. Lewis, head office, Ottawa, writing from France:*

I had my first flight in a machine yesterday when a French officer was kind enough to take me up for a quarter hour flight. We circled around our own camp here and dropped a message in a metal tube. This

fell in a field near camp and was brought in by one of the men who first took it for a bomb and then came in breathless with the letter which I enclosed, thinking it was a warning of an air raid. I enjoyed the experience very much.

*From Lieut. W. J. Boyd, head office, Ottawa:*

Just the other day I bought two small wagon-loads of ordinary shavings to use as standings in our stables and these English people had the cheek to charge a pound sterling per load. They could be had at any mill in Canada for carting them away.

*From Captain W. L. Scandrett, Dominion Forest Supervisor, British Columbia Reserves:*

I see by the Bulletin that the Americans are handling the problem of war forestry in their usual thorough manner. They seem to require a great deal of timber over there (France), and both we and the Huns have already wiped out a great many of the little forests which were scattered about France. In parenthesis I might say that this has worried the airmen more than a little as we use forests for landmarks to a great extent, distinguishing them by their shape. It is a bit disconcerting when one's landmarks disappear or develop characteristics different from those shown on the map.

The timber question is quite acute in England and sawn lumber worth its weight in gold.

I am sure you will be glad to know that I am free of war dangers for some time to come (I hope), having been transferred to England "for a rest." I had just under eleven months of active service with the Royal Flying Corps in France and was quite satisfied to take a turn of duty at home. They gave me ten days' leave, part of which I spent in

the Cumberland Lake district, after which I was posted to the above place (Marborough) as an instructor. I have six machines, some of them will go, and my job is to give the final instructions to pupils before they graduate as pilots. I haven't a great deal of flying to do and have an assistant to help me, so you may see I am pretty comfortable.

*From Private Matthew Nackaway, Indian Fire Ranger, Northern Manitoba:*

I wonder how Norway House forests are now. I never see water—it's all plains and lovely trees all around. And lots of steam engines. And we are building dug-outs. I guess I'll stay in dug-outs after I get back. And we are having a good time under the ground. I was wounded on the back with the shrapnel—just a slight one, and only had to stay in the hospital for four days, but doesn't hurt me at all.

There's a lot of French girls here, but I don't know what they are saying, but they keep on talking.

*From Captain E. W. Conant, Dominion Forest Ranger, Nicola Forest Reserve, with the British forces in Egypt:*

The country (the Eastern desert) is, or rather was, in April, a rolling, open country covered with short grasses, vetches and clovers, and had then on it a good many herds of cattle and sheep. Patched into this grass, looking rather like a gigantic chessboard, were large and small squares of cultivation, without any sort of protection from the stock. The cultivation consists principally of barley of a very fine malting quality and an excellent bearded wheat. The agricultural implements are primitive, but the ploughing and seeding is well done, the first quite straight, though shallow, the second looks as if done by a drill. Water is collected in the rainy season in deep cisterns and

wells. It is a perfect sub-irrigation country from February to end of May, after which everything dries up and the Bedouins retire to the Jordan hills with their flocks. It offers tremendous opportunities to the white farmer as an enormous amount of water runs to waste in the spring down the large wadis which could easily be stored for summer use, and I should think deep artesian borings would be successful. As you can imagine, this kind of country, after so many months of the desert, simply sends one's horses mad. It was really comical to see them on the grass again. It was naturally a wonderful point of view, ideal to us as a country for rapidity of manoeuvre, and we did some tall distances.

Well, I wish the war would hurry up and finish. I'm tired of the sun and glare and homesick for the dark green depths of a trail right up in the jackpine, and a bit of a lake with trout in it.

(Although Capt. Conant did not state just where he was at the time of writing, the text of his letter would seem to indicate that he is with the force that has reached Palestine.—ED.)

*From Major W. A. Lyndon, Forest Ranger on the Crowsnest Forest Reserve, Alberta:*

I spent five weeks in the Vimy Ridge district in front of Lens, where we had some very hot work. So far I have been very lucky, not yet receiving a wound, but have had the unpleasantness of facing the gas. Our boys at the front are in great spirits always ready for a raid on the Bosch. They are always successful. If the young men could see the jolly spirits our boys at the front are in they would not need conscription in Canada. The kickers are the ones that stay at the base and in England and are afraid to face the music. Those are the ones that do the kicking.



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They know what lofty and fervent thoughts have inspired this gift.

Permit me to express their deep gratitude, and believe me to remain,

Yours, etc.,  
**M. BOIGEY.**

### Expecting a Puncture.

Little Benny was looking at a picture of Elijah going to heaven in a chariot of fire. Pointing to the halo about the prophet's head, Benny exclaimed: "See, mamma, he's carrying an extra tire."

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